AWOL

ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE FOR THE EXPAT IN ALL OF US
What's happening, and might be happening, in and around Hua Hin

Had enough of serious internet forums? Join the AWOL forum at www.awolonline.net and have some fun!

8 January 10

FREE WEEKLY

GO KART Hua Hin

Race to page 17 for more information!

032 547 199 (Office) or 081 817 3000 (Mobile)

Clampdown?

Foreigners ruffled by series of incidents

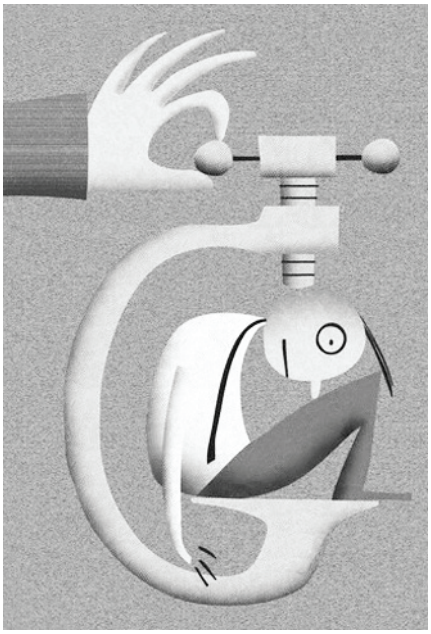
■ HUA HIN, THAILAND

AWOL was hoping to start the year with a positive front page story with a New Year, new start type of feel to it, but events have unfortunately dictated otherwise.

A series of incidents involving various branches of Thai authority have swept the town in the last few weeks, giving at least the appearance of some form of clampdown on foreigners and their businesses here.

It is entirely possible that this is just coincidence, or a form of cleaning up at the turn of the year, but some of it has ominous overtones for foreigners who run businesses and own property here.

The most worrying of the incidents though concerns, of all things, an organisation that carries out valuable charity work for the less fortunate in Thai society. Details of this incident and the whys and wherefores are not clear at press time so AWOL will only bring you the full story when the information is available.



This follows hard on the heels of other incidents where raids have been made on business premises run by and employing foreigners, checking on work permits and licenses, and another incident which appears to herald a close examination of the formation of companies where a foreigner is a shareholder. A common practice years ago when forming such companies was the use of what is known as 'nominee shareholders', but under Thai law this was, and

Continued on page 2

INSIDE **AWOL**

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Clampdown?

Continued from page 1

is, illegal, and is what got former PM Thaksin into trouble. Many foreigners had companies set up for them by Thai lawyers and real estate agencies to enable them to buy land to build their dream home in paradise on, and a concern now will be that this practice, which essentially was a loophole in the law and apparently not only tolerated but encouraged during the property boom, is now about to be stamped out and pursued retrospectively.

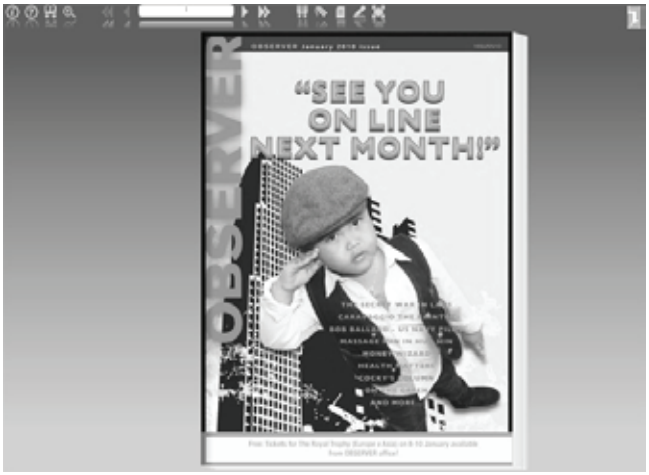
It is not known for certain if this is the Thai authorities stance, but it would be wise for anyone who has any concerns about the structure and shareholder setup of their company, if it has any foreigner involvement, to get it checked, and changed if necessary, by competent lawyers.

While this story is by no means meant as a criticism of the Thai authorities actions, because it is good to know that the law can be followed and maintained here, the timing is unfortunate to say the least. While there probably isn't any coordinated plan targeting foreigners, these incidents in combination with each other and the additional obstacles foreigners face here, such as the music copyright blitzes, steep increases in work permit costs and the associated mountains of paperwork required, make it feel as if foreigners are not wanted here, despite creating jobs, doing charitable work and spending their money.

It is also a galling contrast when a foreigner is rightfully pulled over for a minor traffic offence, to then commonly observe highly dangerous manoeuvres routinely ignored, such as driving on the wrong side of the road, speeding through red lights and pulling out without looking. These are just driving examples, but foreigners must begin to wonder if the same applies to business paperwork and taxes for Thais and foreigners; all of these things combine to leave expats feeling put upon. The perception may be wrong, but the battering Thailand's reputation has taken over the last couple of years cannot be helped if these perceptions are fuelled by perceived victimisation.

A fond goodbye, and a warm welcome

■ HUA HIN, THAILAND



This month sees the end of an era, as the longest established English language publication in Hua Hin, the Observer, ends its 17 years of producing the printed magazine 'the best in holiday reading'. As AWOL came to life under its auspices, we would like to pay tribute to all who have ever been involved with the magazine for maintaining a high quality entertaining publication for the area. Of course, this is not the end for the Observer, but a new beginning, as they completely embrace the digital age with 'Flip Viewer' technology, to produce the magazine in digital form where you can flip through the pages as you would an actual magazine, but with many added enhancements, on their website www.observergroup.net. The January issue is in fact already online there (see example right) but the proper launch is with their February issue, which will be the first exclusively online.

AWOL would like to wish the Observer the best of luck with their new venture, and hope that they will be producing the same standard they always have for at least another 17 years!

Got something to say? Need answers to questions? Join the new online AWOL discussion forum on the AWOL website www.awolonline.net

HUTSADIN ELEPHANT FOUNDATION

Help the Elephants of this area - many are now unable to be kept by their owners due to ill health, age or being unable to work any more. The Hutsadin Elephant Foundation will take care of these animals but needs both volunteers and donations to do so. Please help these gentle giants, or just visit them at the Foundation on the Pala-U Road.

www.hutsadin.org

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AWOL Page 3

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■ SINGAPORE

Tila Nguyen (born October 24, 1981), better known by her stage name Tila Tequila, is a Singapore-born singer, model, and television personality. She is known for her MTV reality show A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila which aired for two seasons, and has been in the news for her recent engagement to heiress (yes, fellas, heiress) Casey Johnson (of Johnson & Johnson) and the death of her fiance only 4 days ago.

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Weather, Money, Information

Local Forecast

Day	Conditions	Temp °C Low	High
Saturday	Partly sunny and pleasant	22	30
Sunday	Sunshine	22	33
Monday	Very warm with sunshine	22	33
Tuesday	Sunny and very warm	22	33
Wednesday	Mostly sunny	21	32
Thursday	Partly sunny and humid	22	32
Friday	Times of clouds and sun	22	32

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World Forecast

Friday 8th January 2010

City	Min	Max	Weather
Amsterdam	-6	0	Fog
Athens	14	19	Cloudy
Auckland	13	21	Showers
Beijing	-12	-6	Snow
Berlin	-9	-4	Snow
Buenos Aires	14	27	Fine
Chicago	-9	-4	Snow
Copenhagen	-7	-3	Cloudy
Dubai	16	25	Clear
Dublin	-5	3	Snow
Geneva	-4	-1	Snow
Helsinki	-19	-8	Ptly Cldy
Ho Chi Minh	21	33	Bright
Hong Kong	15	17	Sctd Clds
Islamabad	3	20	Clear
Jakarta	25	33	Rain
Jerusalem	14	20	Fine
Jo'burg	15	24	T-Storms
Karachi	12	26	Fine
Kuala L'pur	24	32	Rain
London	-3	1	Snow
Madrid	-2	2	Fine
Manila	24	30	Cloudy
Mexico City	7	19	Rain
Moscow	-8	-2	Snow
New Delhi	9	15	Fog
New York	-3	3	Cloudy
Oslo	-20	-16	Clear
Paris	-5	-1	Mist
Perth	20	35	Clear
Phnom-Penh	23	31	Clear
Rio	20	35	T-Storms
Riyadh	6	24	Clear
Rome	12	15	T-Storms
San F'cisco	8	13	Cloudy
Singapore	25	32	T-Storms
Stockholm	-14	-7	Overcast
Sydney	21	26	Fine
Tokyo	4	11	Cloudy
Vientiane	15	23	?Rain
Yangon	15	34	Sctd Clds
Zurich	-5	-2	Snow

Exchange Rates

At Thursday 7th January 2010 (mid-market rates)

Currency	Value (Baht)
US Dollar	31.96
Pound Sterling	52.19
Euro	47.15
Japanese Yen	35.11
Malaysian Ringgit	9.03
Singapore Dollar	23.36
Brunei Dollar	22.81
Chinese Yuan	4.32
Indonesian Rupiah	2.08
Indian Rupee	0.62125
Korean Won	0.0247
Australian Dollar	29.98
New Zealand Dollar	24.05
Swiss Franc	31.72
Danish Krone	6.15
Norwegian Krone	5.64
Swedish Krona	4.49
Canadian Dollar	31.45
UAE Dirham	7.24
Bahrain Dinar	59.17
Kuwaiti Dinar	58.38
Omani Rial	7.13
Qatar Riyal	9.1717

AWOL makes no warranties, express or implied, regarding these rates and shall not be liable for any losses or damages incurred in connection with them.

Get the latest Weather and Exchange rates on our website
www.awolonline.net

Useful Numbers

Emergency Calls
Police 191
Crime 195
Fire 199
Traffic Control Centre 197
Highway Police 1193
Tourist Police 1699
Tourist Service Centre 1155
Missing Persons 02 282 1815
Hua Hin Police Station
032 511 027
Cha-Am Police Station
032 471 321
Hua Hin Hospital
032 511 743
San Paulo Hospital
032 532 576 to 585
Hua Hin Red Cross 032 512 567

Other numbers
Hua Hin Tessabahn 032 511 047
Hua Hin Immigration Office
032 513 574
Hua Hin Bus Terminal
(non air-con) 032 511 230
(air-con) 032 511 651, 512 543
Hua Hin Railway Station
032 511 073
Tourist Information Centre
032 512 120
Hua Hin Electricity 032 512 215
Hua Hin Water 032 511 677
TOT 032 519 000/001
TT&T 032 532 018
British Embassy
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Hua Hin Sky Web Radio 98.5 -
032 526398

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WBA 08 WORLD BEER AWARDS

Don't know where to find Lost Cafe?
Just look at the map on page 13!
www.lost-cafe.com

English corner

Have you ever wondered where a certain phrase comes from, or what it really means? Every week we will expand your knowledge of English and its etymology with a different word or saying. This week it is...

As happy as a sandboy

Very happy and content.

American readers will probably be more familiar with 'as happy as a clam', which originated in the USA in the 19th century. The Australian version is 'as happy as Larry', which (probably) originated there. Other creatures that are reputedly more than usually happy are larks, dogs with two tails and pigs in shit.

The word 'sandboy' brings to mind images of a child playing on the beach, making sand-castles and the like. In fact, sandboy was the name of those who delivered sand to public houses, theatres and homes in the 18th and 19th centuries. Children were used in that trade, but most sandboys were adults. This use of 'boy' has frequently been used for low-status male workers, as in tea-boy, barrow-boy, house-boy etc.

The use that the sand was put to was as a crude floor covering - a precursor to sawdust in what later became known as 'spit and sawdust' establishments - public spitting wasn't then reviled as it is now.

The earliest printed citation of the phrase found is from Pierce Egan's Real Life in London, 1821:

"...appeared to be as happy as a sand-boy, who had unexpectedly met with good luck in disposing of his hampers full of the above-household commodity. "

Charles Dickens made an oblique reference to the variant form of the phrase, 'as jolly as a sand-boy', in his 1840 novel The Old Curiosity Shop, in which the inn The Jolly Sandboys features. The original printing of the book included etchings (below right), one of which shows the 'sandboys' in party mood. Dickens describes the place like this:

"The Jolly Sandboys was a small road-side inn of pretty ancient date, with a sign, representing three Sandboys increasing their jollity with as many jugs of ale".

Carting sand may have been hard and dusty work, but the sandboys' reputation for happiness seems more straightforward than with clams or 'Larry' - they were often intoxicated.

Hua Hin Sky Web Radio

■ HUA HIN, THAILAND

'Good Morning Hua Hin' is aimed at the growing contingent of foreigners living in and visiting the area and broadcasts every Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 9 and 12, by Sky Web Radio on 98.5 FM, and can also be listened to online. It is a mix of music, information, phone ins and discussion of Hua Hin and Thailand. Hosted by Phil Cliffe, an English teacher, and Khun Oy, you can go and watch them in action in Market Village, or you can contact the show while they are on air; the phone number is 032 526398. Special guests will be a regular feature, and AWOL will feature on the show in 2010. Some of the topics covered so far include personal safety tips, Thais learning English and communication problems, road safety, Christmas in the Orient, Thai time versus GMT and the proposed BA strike over Christmas. Tune in soon!

FRIENDS of AWOL

Bars and Pubs

Beach Hut Bar (p13)
Beer O'clock Club (p13/ 19)
Bob and Noks (p13)
Bobby's Bar (p9)
Cookies (p13)
Dick's Office (p24)
Dizzy Dolphin (p3)
Dolphin Bar (p24)
Erikssons Wärdshus (p9/23)
Harley's Bar (p3)
Jungle Juice (p 5/ 20)
Lolitas (p14)
Lucky Shot (p20)
Railway Tavern (p11)
Sabai Bar (p12)

Restaurants and Food

British Breakfast Foods(p9)
Buffalo Tavern (p8)
Hua Hin Ham & Bacon (p1)
Kom Hom (p15)
Lin's Cafe (p4)
Lost Cafe (p13)

Activities and Services

Construction Gang (p5)
The Dartman (p9)
Go Kart Hua Hin (p1/ 17)
Grand Sport (p7)
J.B. Consultancy (p10)
Observer Group (p 9)
Siam Consulting (p 13)

Property

Curly's Bar (p16)
Nong Kha Land (p9)
Perfect Land (p21)
Property Marketplace (p7/ 14)

Miscellaneous

Hutsadin Elephants (p2)

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Property Marketplace 1

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Weird News

■ WARWICKSHIRE, ENGLAND

Historic statue turned into Homer Simpson

Residents in a Warwickshire village are trying to track down a gang of pranksters who defaced a historical statue of their village's most famous figure - by turning it into Homer Simpson.

The statue of Lord John Scott - a benefactor, landlord and MP who was a well-respected figure in Dunchurch, near Rugby - was Simpsonised on New Year's Eve, leaving Lord John with yellow skin, a bald head and a pronounced overbite.

The statue of Lord John, who died in 1860, is also dressed in Homer Simpson's standard uniform of white shirt-sleeved shirt and blue trousers.

Altering the statue has become something of a tradition in recent years - previous pranks have seen it transformed into icons such as Harry Potter, Shrek and Spider-Man.

Residents say that they'd mostly like to find those responsible to congratulate them on the level of detail they achieved - but that they doubt anyone will come forward, fearing they'd get in trouble.

■ OHIO, USA

Nugget fury woman in McDonald's window punch

A woman punched through a McDonald's drive-through window after she became enraged that Chicken McNuggets weren't available.

Police were called on Friday to the restaurant in Toledo, in northwestern Ohio.

Police told The Blade newspaper that 24-year-old Melodi Dushane was treated for injuries, then jailed. She pleaded not guilty to a vandalism charge.

She was released on a recognizance bond and ordered not to have contact with the restaurant.

According to authorities, Dushane became 'upset that chicken nuggets weren't available', with the result that she 'punched out the drive-through window.'

A manager at the McDonald's declined Monday to discuss the incident.

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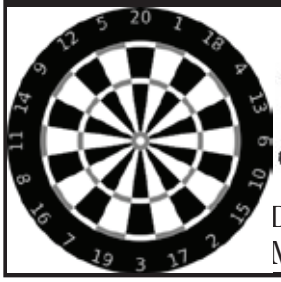

The Dartman

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Website under construction
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AWOL Sudoku

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Each week we will present you with two Sudoku puzzles; an easy one and a hard one. Just fill in the empty squares so that each horizontal and vertical line has all the numbers 1 to 9, as well as each section.

Sudoku Hints For Beginners

Look for the obvious.

Is there a section that has one cell unsolved? Quickly find the solution by counting from 1 to 9 locating each number in that row, column, or region. The missing number is the solution.

Where do you start?

Take a systematic approach to solving Sudoku. A good way to start is by first looking for a number that has the most "givens".

Look for the only possible choice.

Sometimes there is only one place a number can possibly go. This is discovered by working systematically through each line and box in turn. Good luck!

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Puzzle 1 (Easy)

2		8	3					
				1	6		2	
	3			2				9
	1	2	8	5		6		
4		6			2	7		
5					1			
				8				
9	5				4	3		
	4		6			1	5	

Puzzle 2 (Hard)

6								3
2		7				5	9	6
4	9							2
5	8			4	1			
			8				5	
				9		8	3	
		2	1			6		
				8	4		1	
		3		6	5	9		

Last week's solutions

Puzzle 1

9	2	4	5	3	7	1	6	8
3	7	8	4	6	1	2	9	5
5	6	1	8	2	9	3	4	7
6	5	2	7	9	4	8	1	3
4	8	9	3	1	2	5	7	6
7	1	3	6	5	8	9	2	4
8	9	6	1	7	3	4	5	2
1	3	7	2	4	5	6	8	9
2	4	5	9	8	6	7	3	1

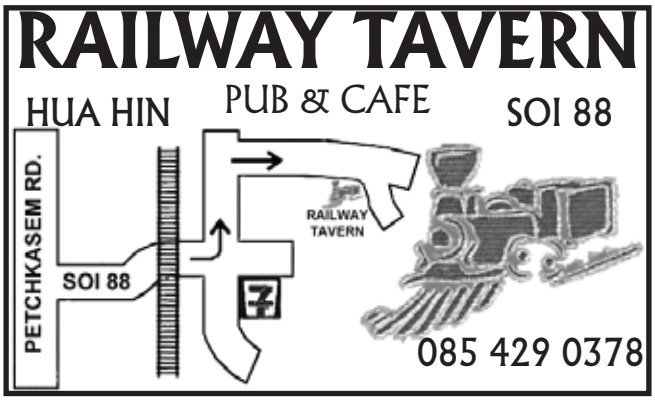
Puzzle 2

6	7	1	4	8	2	5	9	3
9	8	2	5	1	3	4	6	7
3	4	5	9	6	7	8	1	2
7	1	6	2	3	8	9	4	5
4	9	3	1	5	6	7	2	8
2	5	8	7	9	4	1	3	6
5	6	4	8	2	9	3	7	1
8	2	7	3	4	1	6	5	9
1	3	9	6	7	5	2	8	4

Area HA! HA! 555 HA!

Send your jokes to submissions@awolonline.net and get your name in print!

Brought to you by The Railway Tavern



Visit Area 555 Uncut on www.awolonline.net

PERKS OF OLD AGE

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you will be released first.
3. No one expects you to run into a burning building.
4. People call at 9 PM and ask, "Did I wake you?"
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat dinner at 4 P.M.
9. You can live without sex but not without glasses.
10. You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.
11. You have heated arguments about pension plans.
12. You have a party and the neighbours don't even realize it.
13. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
14. You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.
15. You sing along with elevator music.
16. Your eyes won't get much worse.
17. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
18. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
19. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
20. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
21. You can't remember where you read this list.

HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT WOMEN AND BE POLITICALLY CORRECT

She is not a BABE or a CHICK; she is a BREASTED AMERICAN.
She is not a SCREAMER or MOANER; she is VOCALLY APPRECIATIVE.
She is not EASY; she is HORIZONTALLY ACCESSIBLE.
She is not DUMB; she is a DETOUR OFF THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY.
She has not BEEN AROUND; she is a PREVIOUSLY ENJOYED COMPANION.
She is not an AIR HEAD; she is REALITY IMPAIRED.
She does not get DRUNK or TIPSY; she gets CHEMICALLY INCONVENIENCED.
She is not HORNY; she is SEXUALLY FOCUSED.
She does not have BREAST IMPLANTS; she is MEDICALLY ENHANCED.
She does not NAG YOU; she becomes ORALLY REPETITIVE.
She is not a SLUT; she is SEXUALLY EXTROVERTED.
She is not a TWO BIT WHORE; she is a LOW COST PROVIDER.

HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT MEN AND BE POLITICALLY CORRECT

He does not have a BEER GUT; he has developed a LIQUID GRAIN STORAGE FACILITY.
He is not a BAD DANCER; he is OVERLY CAUCASIAN.
He does not GET LOST ALL THE TIME; he INVESTIGATES ALTERNATIVE DESTINATIONS.
He is not BALDING; he is in FOLLICLE REGRESSION.
He is not a CRADLE ROBBER; he prefers GENERATIONAL DIFFERENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS.
He does not get FALLING-DOWN DRUNK; he becomes ACCIDENTALLY HORIZONTAL.
He does not act like a TOTAL ASS; he develops a case of RECTAL-CRANIAL INVERSION.
He is not a MALE CHAUVINIST PIG; he has SWINE EMPATHY.
He is not afraid of COMMITMENT; he is MONOGAMOUSLY CHALLENGED.
He is not QUIET; he is a CONVERSATIONAL MINIMALIST.
He is not STUPID; he suffers from MINIMAL CRANIAL DEVELOPMENT.
He is not SHORT; he is ANATOMICALLY COMPACT.
He does not CONSTANTLY TALK ABOUT CARS; he has a VEHICULAR ADDICTION.
He is not UNSOPHISTICATED; he is SOCIALLY MALFORMED.
He does not EAT LIKE A PIG; he suffers from REVERSE BULIMIA.
He does not HOG THE BLANKETS; he is THERMALLY UNAPPRECIATIVE.
He doesn't have a DIRTY MIND; he has INTROSPECTIVE PORNOGRAPHIC MOMENTS.

Your STARS with The Sage Monkey

brought to you by my.opera.com/bentrein

A New Year, but the same old monkey business here; a triumphant return for Spanky after his extensive lecture tour of Africa and Europe. He has come back older, wiser and with an extensive collection of fridge magnets from every country he visited. Shame he doesn't own a fridge really.

Capricorn
Dec 22 - Jan 19

Now that Spanky the Monkey is back, I can confidently say that there's no reason for you to panic: as all proverbial ways lead to Rome, all your non-proverbial ways lead to Facedownonthetarmac.

Aquarius
Jan 20 – Feb 18

Win some bets this week. Albion, Drupal, Sporcle, proprofs and Trivial Persuit are not only your favourite games and sites, you're so full of useless facts that you'll prove very good at them.

Pisces
Feb 19 – Mar 20

Your life will be incredibly influenced by a strong personality that you're to meet in a road-side restaurant. You can recognise this person by an extremely hairy fanny – either the British or the Yankee kind.

Aries
Mar 21 – Apr 20

You're in luck this week. That is, if you consider having intercourse with thirty-four complete strangers in the back of a dark and smelly warehouse lucky. At least you're getting some action...

Taurus
Apr 21 – May 20

When the tension in the room can be cut with a razor, you have an unfortunate accident by running headlong into it; as you're out of razorblades, you'll suffer a concussion.

Gemini
May 21 – June 21

They say it's better to have a bird in the hand than ten in the bush. After your Saturday afternoon visit to the butchers, you unfortunately don't even have a hand left. So what good will a bird do you?

Cancer
Jun 22 – Jul 22

Trouble is brewing for you, and a warned man counts for two. Unfortunately, your warned half goes AWOL after six shots of Mekong, leaving you all alone.

Leo
Jul 23 – Aug 22

There were ten in the bed, and the little one said: "roll over!". So they all rolled over, and one fell out... And you're not so little, are you? Tough luck, you'll be sleeping on the floor soon.

Virgo
Aug 23 – Sep 22

Come Monday evening you'll be in the dog-house. Oh, no, make that Tuesday evening. Monday you'll sleep outside, and Tuesday you'll spend building the damn thing, as you don't have a dog yet.

Libra
Sep 23 – Oct 23

You're a dog lover, and you know it. You'll invest all your money this week on helping the poor street-dogs in Thailand, only to have the healed dogs multiply like rabbits, and thus increasing the problem.

Scorpio
Oct 24 – Nov 21

Don't give up on your dream woman. Persevere. Send her love poems every day. There's a good chance that in 186 years and 54 days and 9 hours after you read this, she will actually love you.

Sagittarius
Nov 22 – Dec 21

There's good news and bad news for you this week. The good news is, you get to re-start going through your bucket list. The bad news is, that will cost you half of what you own first.

TAKE IT EASY AT

Sabai Bar

Relax with an ice cold beer and a friendly welcome from Noi and the girls

Get updated on the Hua Hin Golf Society with Kevin

Play pool with the many regulars

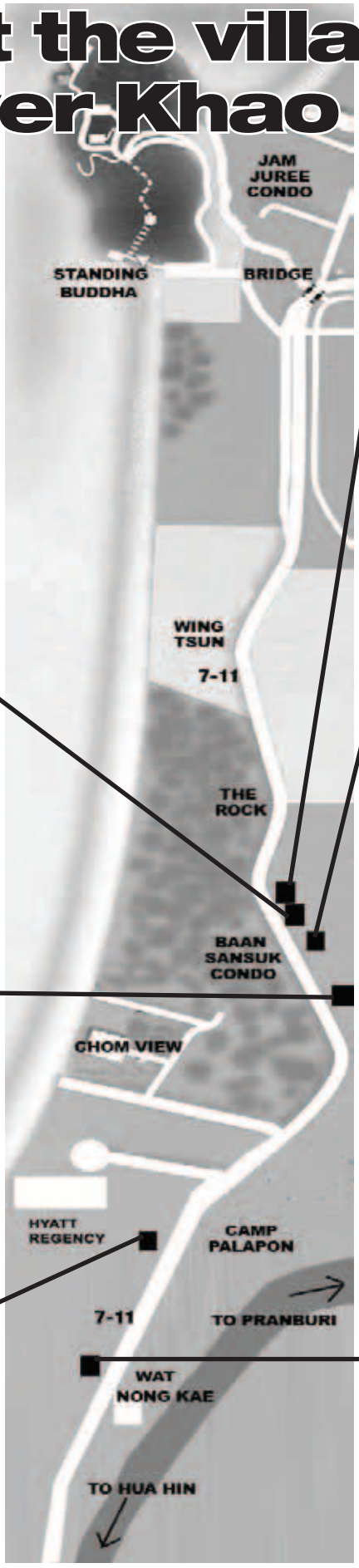
Open every day from 12 Noon 'Til Late

Find us at 5 Soi Selekam, Hua Hin - from the Hilton go north along Naresdamri Road, take the first left and then the first right, and we are 40 m along on the right

Contact us: Noi 086-174-6165 Kevin 089-913-7926 email kevinmilke@yahoo.co.uk

Visit Myanmar - Play golf in the Golden Land Escorted Custom Tours - Enquire within

Visit the village - discover Khao Takiab



Coming soon!
A special section for Khao Takiab on our new website
www.awolonline.net
Contact info@awolonline.net or call 081 649 8361 for more information

BEACH HUT BAR
Have your party or celebration here for FREE (minimum 30 people)
Live music & food available
Phone: Fluke: 084 159 5502

COOKIES
"A big name in this town"
Ice cold beer - Spirits
Bar snacks - Pool
Music - Live sports
It takes the biscuit!
084 569 5537
brithai@hotmail.com

Bob & Noks Bar
Home of Khao Takiab Golf Society
Motorbike / Car Rentals
Club hire
089 586 1700

SPORTS BAR THE BEER GUESTHOUSE RESTAURANT
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FREE EVERY FRIDAY IN HUA HIN, CHA AM AND KHAO TAKIAB
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International Wines, Bottled & Draft Beers
Two satellite systems showing live sports
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Get your business on the map!
Contact sales@awolonline.net or call 081 649 8361

Does life suck? Have your troubles blown away at
Lolitas
Soi Selekam Open 11am - 1am

Your Problems SOLVED

**Relationship woes?
Bar girl blues?
Sexual deviant?
Send your problem
to Mary Ann Cotton on
submissions@awolonline.net**

■ DEAR MARY,
Now Christmas is over I have that familiar, encroaching feeling of doom as I realise I have absolutely nothing to look forward to in the near future except the arrival of hefty credit card bills and the daunting prospect of working off the megatonne of Tesco party food unwisely consumed over the Christmas period. Not only that, but I've made things worse by getting hideously drunk on cheap Cava at some anti-climatic New Years' party and woke up on January 1 in the arms of some hairy-backed gentleman of whom I have no recollection of ever meeting before. Can you suggest anything that might prevent me from sticking my head in the oven?
Denise, Khao Tao

Dear Denise,
Many people find this period intensely depressing, but my advice to you is to imagine that you were in your home country; the presents are unwrapped and the contents highly disappointing; all the Quality Street with the exception of the orange creams have been scoffed; and the tinsel wilts listlessly on the dying tree as your stinking grandmother flatulates her way through the Doctor Who Christmas special.
There's a foot or two of snow outside, the trains aren't running, the airports are closed and any outdoor events are cancelled, so you can't even watch the football to see nice men's bottoms. You can't get to the shops to look at the sales, which would be even more depressing anyway as you haven't got any money or credit. You have at least 4 months of dreary, dismal and cold, wet weather to look forward to, and days that only have about 6 hours of daylight. You'd be working all hours for a measly pittance that the tax man takes most of and living in a draughty cold house. So given the alternative I think you should be absolutely over the moon that you are here in Thai.. oh...I've just seen your P.S. You were only here for a holiday and are now back living in Hull. I'd throw myself in the ice cold Humber River if I were you.

Property Marketplace 2

Recently refurbished 2 bedroom condominium with great sea views, each bedroom comes with en- suite bathroom as well as 1 guest bathroom in the living room. Complimenting the large living area is a fully fitted European standard kitchen and comes fully furnished.

***2 Bed
2 Bath
169 sqm.***

Sale price *Was: 11.9 M* **Now 8.5 M**

This stunning 2-storey house is located about 10 minutes' drive from Hua Hin town - located on an extremely popular, small development.

Land: 760 sqm. Living: 240 sqm.

Sale price *Was: 7.9 M* **Now: 5.95 M**

**If you are interested in these properties
please email us on info@awolonline.net
or call 081 649 8361**

Quick XWord

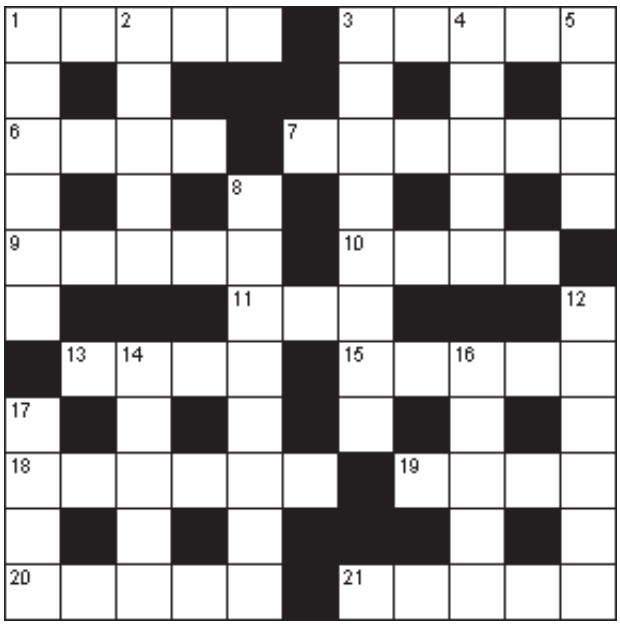
brought to you by Komhom BAR & RESTAURANT SOI 102

Across

1. Located
3. Vocal music
6. Bell-shaped flower
7. Baby's sock
9. Flavour
10. Playthings
11. Filled pastry crust
13. Continent
15. Capital of Bulgaria
18. Having a peak
19. Underground part of a plant
20. Big
21. Retains

Down

1. Formal gesture of respect
2. Informs
3. Least lengthy
4. Nut-like
5. Stalk
8. Inhabitant of Nepal
12. Desert plant
14. Flight of steps
16. Became ice
17. Gemstone



Last week's solution right

CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESS

SMALL FISH AND chip bistro for sale. Opportunity to buy a great little existing business with many resident customers and many regular overseas customers who always come in for the best traditional fish and chips when they visit Hua Hin. Sensible price plus cost of stock on hand.Any interested parties please contact Mike on 0811 491431

BAR FOR SALE in Khao Takiab in up and coming area. Property includes the bar and fittings, Kitchen, and seven rooms which are currently used as owner and staff accommodation, with seperate access Long lease, 10,000 baht a month rent, would suit a couple. Tel. 084 569 5537.

BAR FOR SALE Hua Hin Phetkasem Road central position. Good passing trade, 600, 000 Baht, Partnership considered. Phone 085 295 1595 (Steve)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR RESTAURANT/TAVERN OPERATORS. A three storey, three units building located on a main soi to several housing sub-divisions; one of the units is double size. The Restaurant/Tavern occupies the double unit and has been operating since 2007 with steady positive growth. The core clientele are resident farangs with Thai families, thus the business is not dependent on high season and the tourist trade. The second floor consists of six rooms plus three baths and storage areas. The entire third floor is a two bedroom, two bath townhouse with deck. The staff are completely trained and capable of total operation. This is a walk-in takeover opportunity for a select investor. This chanute property is open to sales offers and business proposals. Please call 083 317 3008 for more information.

YOGA FOR YOUR life !!! Come and feel the spirit of yoga in the beautiful location of Hua Hin. Yoga classes held in the morning, afternoon and evenings as you like. The Yoga Instructor will really bring out the essence of yoga and mediation, the union of mind, body and spirit. Breathe is ecologically aware, combining organic ingredients,with an incomparably warm atmosphereIf interested please email : thid_suttha@yahoo.com or call for more info. Thyda S.: 087 - 0146729

SWIMMING POOL SERVICE Expert swimming service such as cleaning, maintenance, chemical treatment,change spare part etc. contact: mobile phone 086-9977371,email:permsopa_t@hotmail.com

PAINTBALL PARK BUSINESS for sale, located in a busy area with elephant show/rides, ATV's, horse rides, jet ski's & water sports, offering great potential for increased business, as well as many regular clientele, includes ownership of all equipment, Guns, Masks, Boots, uniforms, paintballs, tools, Gas bottles large & small, All current advertising as well as complete playing field fully fenced with obstacles & Building with 3 rooms, kitchen, bathroom, large office/lounge area, air conditioned & fully furnished. Rent is only 12,500 Thai baht per month paid up until January 2010, for Approx. 2 Rai of land, with 7.5 yrs remaining on lease,(2.5yrs plus option for 5yrs). Fully staffed. A Great opportunity to get involved in this fast growing & popular sport. Now Reduced for quick sale due to medical reasons, 350,000 Thai baht o.n.o. All offers considered. Be Quick Must Go!!!! ph: 089 549 0355 Hua Hin Thailand. Email: splatpaintball@live.com

BAR FOR SALE pool table, ps2 game tables, projector TV in Poonsuk rd. 950,000 call 081-378-3436

CURLY'S BAR FOR SALE
ONLY ONE MILLION BAHT, OWNER RETIRING

First class modern bar in a prime location on Petchkasem Road, four doors from 7-11, corner of Soi 80, plenty of passing and regular trade. Completely refurbished, everything new.

Price includes: Fully equipped kitchen, Pool table, flat screen TV, UBC, Air con, all bar furniture.

Property comprises bar/kitchen downstairs, two bedrooms upstairs (One large, one double with ensuite shower), 30 feet plus lounge with new tiled floor. Two and a half year lease, renewable, rent 20,000 baht per month

Please call Terry on 089 8816490

BOAT TOURS FISHING snorkelling tours to suit your needs from 1850 to 2300 baht p/p. Private charter available at very good rates. Call for more details 0837336695 Kannika

EMPLOYMENT

QUALIFIED THAI TEACHER. I am looking for a qualified Thai Teacher who is enthusiastic and has good English. You would be expected to work Monday to Friday 8-5.30pm and would be based at a small Home Learning Centre in Hua Hin. You will work with children aged 4-6 years old and be able to take responsibility for some lessons independently and work alongside the British teacher to provide the curriculum. If you are interested please call Emma 08704 89558

CHILDMINDER/ HOUSEKEEPER WANTED. Mostly evenings and weekends, about 15 to 20 hours per week. Must be able to speak some English and ideally have own transport. Please call 081 649 8361.

LICENSED DRIVER FOR Toyota Commuter wanted, hotel pick-up and drop, brand new van, drive an average of 20 days a month, from 07h to 18h, only Thai citizen. For conditions call Fred at 0890148546.

PART TIME TEACHERS wanted. We are seeking part-time Native English speaking teachers. Must have credentials. Also seeking Native Thai teachers to teach Thai to English speakers. Age not important. Male or Female. Facility is licensed by Ministry of Education. Email CV with photo to: bapakdon@gmail.com

GENERAL

SNORKELLING GEAR, MASK, snorkel and fins size 43/44. Bargain 400 baht. Tel. 089-0702423

CLARINET FOR SALE. Always wanted to play the clarinet? Here is your chance; Almost new Pearl River Clarinet in the key of Bb features solid ebonite body, power-forged nickel silver keys, nickel silver bell ring, undercut toneholes, traditional sculptured spatula keys, and 17 keys and 6 rings (Boehm system). Includes handy case, clarinet stand, and mouthpiece. A fine instrument in excellent condition, THB 18,500. bamassen@hotmail.com

PANASONIC KX-FT907 FAX/ANSWER/ PHONE etc as new 2000 baht ph Sheila 0810064010

ACOUSTIC 12 STRING guitar, Tanglewood full size, excellent condition with case and tuner, 15,000 baht ono. Contact Tip on 089 549 0355

CHILD'S COT/PLAYPEN FOR sale. Folds down into carry bag. Includes nappy changing table, mosquito net, useful storage pockets and mattress. Only 1 year old, new was 6000 baht, will sell for 3000 or offers. Call Steve on 081 649 8361.

WATERCOOLER FOR SALE 2nd hand watercooler for sale, holds 40 litres of water. (normal price new 16700 Baht,) will sell for 6000 Baht. Phone no. 0846309925

FOR SALE GOLF Clubs Calloway Big Bertha irons set. I-Brid long irons replace 3,4 and 5 standard irons 6-PW standard irons. Right hand regular graphite shafts. Total clubs = 8, BHT 20,000. I-Brid irons blend the control and accuracy of irons with the forgiveness of hybrids. These clubs have only been used twice on a driving range. Retail price 30,000 BHT plus. Contact Peter Tel 0848 729 123

ARE YOU A Tall Golfer in Search of Golf Clubs? Callaway Big Bertha 460 Driver 10.5 loft, Mid torque, mid kick callaway 80 gram shaft. (On R&A conforming list) Matching 3 and 5 fairway metals. Cleveland (tour action) TA7 Irons, THESE ARE TWO INCHES LONGER THAN STANDARD, 3 to Sand Iron, dynamic golf steel shafts. Odessy White Steel 2 ball putter + Wilson Pro Staff putter, Titleist Black golf bag. All clubs genuine, no copies. Price 10000 Baht. Contact Mike on 0892279653

3X RED COTTON rugs 1.75cm x 80cm Bt 500 each, Imported Rosewood Bar with 2 stools and large wine cooler Baht 45,000/-. Original Oil Painting Baht 4,500/-, Custom made wooden sideboard Baht 10,000/-, Custom made TV Unit 12,500/-. 084 911 4201

CLASSIC BRITISH COMEDY. All the old British Comedy classics (complete series) plus cult movies (60's onwards) and documentaries. call 081-8113845

MOTORING

3 HONDA CLICKS for sale, second hand, red, white and a blue, all are taxed and insured for 1 year, they are 2 – 3 years old, prices are 25,000 – 28,000 baht. Please call 0860100200 for more details.

JET SKI FOR sale 150,000 Baht, one owner, Seadoo Bombardier XP Ltd Edition, imported new 2001 from Australia. 135 HPR 950 cc Rotax racing engine, very low hours, comes with trailer + impact jacket. Very fast, good condition. Tel 089 550 8501

YAMAHA VIRAGO 400CC prime condition. New tires, newly chromed,newly modified body. Owner needs to go home. 65,000.00 Baht negotiable. Call me! 0877504404

LAND ROVER DARK green, four new tyres, serviced regularly, Isuzu diesel engine, restored good condition. 135, 000 baht. Phone Sheila 081 006 4010

How to place a classified advert in AWOL and AWOLonline: Option 1 - send an email to classifieds@awolonline.net; Option 2 - write out the details clearly in BLOCK capitals on paper and deliver it to Noi at Sabai Bar, Soi Selekam; Option 3 - register on the classifieds section of www.awolonline.net and place your advert there. All options must be taken by 6 pm on the Tuesday before the printed issue you want to be included in. All adverts are free and will be included for at least four weeks automatically, except for adverts by large companies - please contact AWOL on sales@awolonline.net for prices and details.

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GET RACING FROM ONLY 400 BAHT!
OPEN EVERYDAY 10.30AM - 7PM, LATE NIGHT BY APPOINTMENT
Call 032 547 199 (Office) or 081 817 3000 (Mobile)
Soi 2, Phetchkasem Road opposite Hua Hin Airport

CAR FOR SALE
TOYOTA COROLLA XLI

1994 1300cc 4-DOOR 5sp MANUAL SEDAN. SILVER COLOUR
Low Mileage for Year. Long tax & Insured, Well Maintained.
Radio/CD Player. Recent New Cambelt & brakes.
CONTACT Jeston 08954 62206.
Good Price- 99,000 THB
Sensible Offers Considered

HONDA WAVE 125I 2008 Model, Disc Brake Type Perfect Condition! Used Less 1,200kms. only Sale = 38,000.- Baht, Ready to transfer Call : 087-169-6658

MITSUBISHI TRITON PLUS, 2007, 2.5 litre Diesel, 2 wheel drive, manual transmission, full option, Carry Boy and roof rack, MP3/DVD/CD player, LCD Screen. 45,000 kms, full service history, first class insurance until April 2010. 550,000 baht negotiable for quick sale due to new vehicle arriving. Call Patrick on 089 798 2450.

HONDA CRF FOR sale, 250cc 4 stroke, motor crosser, 2005, 85,000 baht, call 0860100200.

HARLEY PM, 1450CC, 2000 Model, Black, Former Heritage Softail. New design with PM parts & accessories. Reduced to 990,000, call 0860100200.

SUZUKI DRZ 400, electric start, Yellow, like new, with invoice papers. 140,000 baht call 0860100200.

TAXIS BANGKOK AIRPORT Pattaya at very competitive prices. Call Kannika on 0837336695

SECOND HAND NOUVO for Sale, 25,000 Baht, call 0860100200.

MOTORBIKE AND SIDE for sale or rent. if you dont have a car,why not buy or rent a motorbike and sidecar. great for shopping or larger items. For details call 087107 8901

SUZUKI GSXR 1000 K3 for sale. Year 2003, Invoice papers, very fast, reduced, now a bargain. P/X possible, good condition, 195,000 baht! Call 0860100200.

MOTORBIKE FOR SALE - Honda ZX 50cc, no registation/no insurance/no licence required, good as new, 407km on clock - 11,000 baht - Contact Mick - 0870129615

FOR SALE, 1975 Mercedes Benz 200 automatic, white colour. Good condition, original paint, air-conditioning. Recently serviced. Price: 150.000 baht negotiable. Phone: 081-0108216 (English)

SUZUKI BANDIT V 400cc for sale 70,000 baht. Call Nu on 086 548 3613

PERSONALS

LOOKING FOR HEALTH COVER? Get a free consultation in your home or at our office - just call 089 546 2206 or email jeston@jbcthailand.com

AVAILABLE NOW! OFF ROAD 4 speed 125cc Fun bikes in two sizes as shown below. Priced at 27,999 and 32,999 baht respectively. Have a test ride at Go Kart Hua Hin - call 032 547 199 (office) or 081 817 3000 to arrange one or for more information.

PROPERTY

HOUSE FOR SALE. 3br/2baths, large living room, small kitchen and dining room. Huge covered patio [big enough to build small house]. Safe, quiet, no flooding[make sure about this when you buy]. Moving back to USA and must sell. 1.5 million baht; the land is worth 2 million. Call 080 244 6739.

CONDOCHAIN 13TH FLOOR one bedroom condominium for sale;kitchen, bathroom, balcony, recently redecorated, 3.6 m baht or near offer. Call Joyce on 085 701 7187.

RELEASE THE EQUITY IN YOUR PROPERTY - Contact us on 089 546 2206 or email jeston@jbcthailand.com for a free consultation.

LARGE TOWN CENTRE House For Sale, 3 Bed / 4 Bath, Large pool, Jacuzzi and garden, Gym, Massage & cinema room, plus much much more, located on Soi 94, priced competitively at 14.9million baht, please call 0860100200 for more details.

BRAND NEW 2 Bed, 2 Bath House For Sale. Fully Furnished, 50" TV, UBC, DVD Recorder, European Kitchen and UPVC windows, 3 A/C, central hot water, shared pool and gated community. Only 2,960,000 Baht! Option to purchase extra land adjoining. Call 0860100200.

4 BEDROOM HOUSE in Khao Tao village. Half Rai plot. Within walking distance of Had Sai Noi beach. A/C and Internet line installed. 2,500,000 Baht. Call 0866 068 387 or e-mail oy_brown@yahoo.com for full details.

PALM HILLS LARGE Plot For Sale, 741sq rai, last plot of this size. It is competitively priced and has great unconstructed views of the 7th green and 8th tee, Family membership and house plans included if wanted, priced very cheap at 9.9 million baht, please call 0860100200 for more details.

PROPERTY FINANCE AVAILABLE- Just contact us to discuss the options available for Westerners on 089 546 2206 or email jeston@jbcthailand.com

LUXURY VILLA FOR sale. Two storeys, 15 by 4.5m swimming pool with bathroom and large deck, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, very large lounge, raised dining area, fully fitted European kitchen, extra large Thai kitchen, separate bungalow with bath, large water storage tanks, sprinkler system, double car port. It is situated on 1.8 Rai of enclosed land in a secluded area 5 minutes from Hua Hin centre, and is a Chanote property that must be seen. Please contact 083 317 3008 for more information.

HOUSE FOR SALE, Tippawan Village, Corner large plot, 3 bed, 3 bath. Room for a pool. Lots of extras in the house, it's well worth a look. 5,200,000 Baht call 0860100200.

ECO FRIENDLY PEST control, non toxic, stain free, odourless domestic and commercial contracts available. Call for more details 0899109367 Steve

RENTALS

RENT HOUSE. 4BR/2BATHS, large living room, large kitchen and Den. 2 balconies - both large, front and back. Comes furnished. 15,000 month. 4 km from town centre. Call 080 244 6739.

SHOP 4 RENT - looking for a shop/restaurant to rent? 12,000THB/mth only, email leximanee@gmail.com

HOUSE IN TOWN. 2br/2baths. large living room. small dining room. small kitchen. huge covered patio. air in 1 br. unfurnished. safe. no flooding. 7,000baht month for long term only. call 0802446739

3 BEDROOM, 4 bathroom villa with private pool. AC in all bedrooms. Quiet location in Khao Tao village close to Had Sai Noi beach and five minutes from four golf courses. Phone and internet. European kitchen. Spacious and airy living area. Well stocked, secluded garden. Available part furnished or unfurnished. Garden maintenance included. 28,000 per month. Contact dougal.brown@yahoo.com

ROOMS TO RENT: Air conditioned, en-suite furnished, TV /DVD. bar/ restaurant on site. Pool and other facilities 10 mins from town centre. From 6000 Bt per mth Contact 0833111787 or pernodchris@hotmail.com

BRAND NEW HOUSE 5kms from Hua Hin centre. Spanish style, fully new furnished - Summerland residence, 2 bedrooms with air, 2 baths, European kitchen, living room, cable TV, LCD TV. Private swimming pool, security. Available by weekend, week, month or long term. Contact franckphuket@hotmail.com

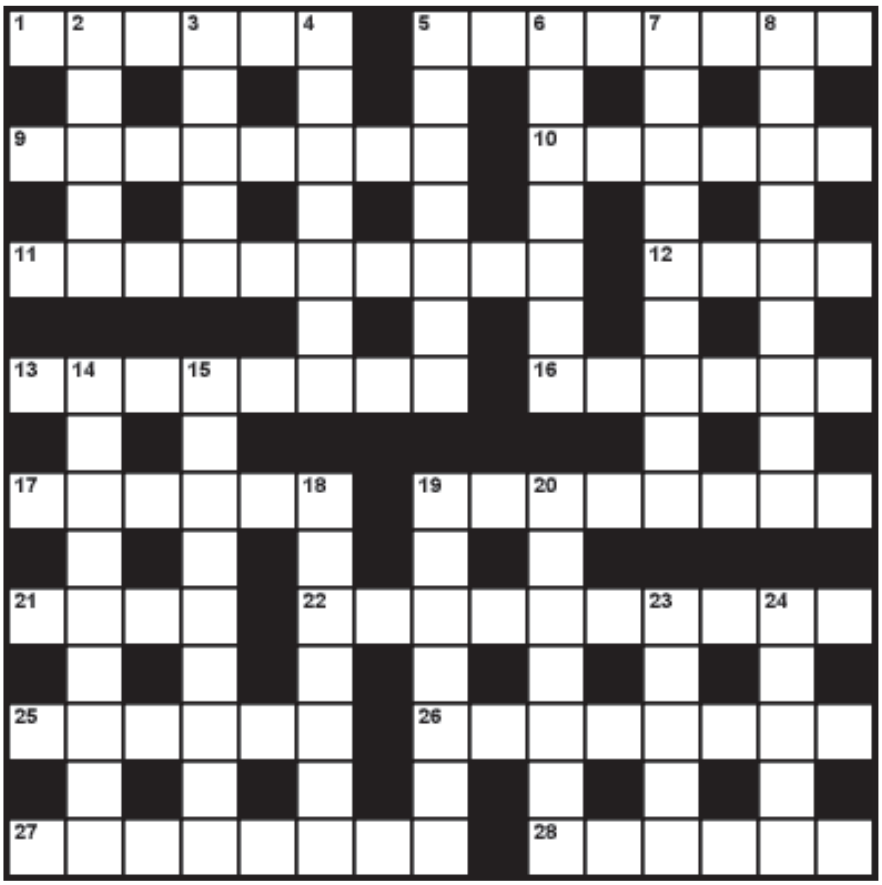
FOR RENT TWIN/DOUBLE room in house on Soi Naebkehardt (near Soi 51). 10 Min walk to town or 2 Min by motorbike. Shared living and kitchen facilities. Air con (or fan), UBC Satellite TV, Off street parking. Suit couple or 2 sharing. Bht 4500 per month or Bht 1200 per week (Inclusive Electricity , Water, UBC) Call Ray on 0827278568 or Email raymathiesen02@aol.com

WANTED

TODDLER BED REQUIRED - We are looking for a toddler bed (3+ years) with mattress in good condition. email: leximanee@gmail.com

INTERESTED IN PENSIONS? We are looking for people, in particular UK pension holders, to attend a free seminar in Hua Hin on recent European Pension Law changes. Call 089 546 2206 or email jeston@jbcthailand.com to register your interest.

AWOL's Cryptic Crossword



Following a number of reader requests, we are bringing to you every week a cryptic crossword to supplement our Quick XWord on page 15.

No prizes, just the personal satisfaction of unriddling, anagram spotting and deciphering the clues. We hope that you will all enjoy our latest addition to AWOL's roster, and please let us know what you think about this and any other part of the paper, by emailing us on info@awolonline.net.

The solution to this puzzle is on page 20, and space permitting we will have a new puzzle and solution every week.

If you are interested in sponsoring this or any other section, please contact us on sales@awolonline.net or call 081 649 8361. Sponsorships are available from a minimum of three months (13 issues) and are a cost effective way to promote your business, starting from only 1000 baht.

Across

1 When the French record departed (6)
5 Cutting device that may be used in wrestling (8)
9 Animal's organ (oak-produced) (8)
10 Over-formality of celebrity church (6)
11 Time chart I made for branch of mathematics (10)
12 Excavates somewhere to live (4)
13 Recreation ground to command instrument (8)
16 Student's first mode of transport causes injury (6)
17 Church found in games console's divisions of play (6)
19 Part of the academic year - seems perhaps to come before most of term (8)
21 Shellfish nearly came without a bit of lemon (4)
22 Are insects strange opposition? (10)
25 Street has a country and a verse (6)
26 Choose pricy centre causing great excitement? (8)
27 New students about to go with that girl into French Society (8)
28 Without doubt you are heard in southern city (6)

Down

2 What may help you up in Budapest airport (5)
3 Number taken in, say (5)
4 Ancient tomb may drip when damaged (7)
5 Having less length in fish or terrapin (7)
6 Little creatures in religious groups (7)
7 Flags, and a way to enter streets (9)
8 Acknowledge corgi seen at sea (9)
14 It helps you go up a hill after laces break (9)
15 In time, soldiers are taken in by books - point to medicated preparations (9)
18 Green, for example, when graduate comes up in nurse's design (7)
19 Relatives in order? (7)
20 Degree teachers (7)
23 A newspaper queen is following (5)
24 I will be going under church to find coldness (5)

Disclaimer: *All articles are published in good faith and based on information available to us at publication, No responsibility is accepted other than that stipulated by law. Although the information in this publication has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, AWOL cannot guarantee accuracy in all cases. Any opinions expressed are those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.*

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Bungling bank robbers claim 2009 Darwin Awards

The winners of the 2009 Darwin Awards have been announced and for the first time in the history of the awards a woman has made the top three.

The awards, named in honour of Charles Darwin, have become a fun way of celebrating some of the more ridiculous things carried out by our fellow humans. The awards themselves say they "commemorate those who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it."

This year's top three features two Americans and a pair of bank robbers from Belgium.

In third place was the first woman to win a Darwin, Rosanne T, 50, from North Carolina. Despite a heavy thunderstorm and localised flooding Rosanne decided to take a trip on her moped to the local shop. It is thought she possibly had a beer there before heading home.

On the way Rosanne encountered a police road block, which she chose to ignore and subsequently fell into a swollen creek. Officers managed to rescue Rosanne but when given the opportunity she decided to escape again by jumping back into the creek and this time officers could not save her. Her mother thinks that Rosanne jumped back into the creek to try save her moped. "She loved that thing," her mother said.

Second place also goes to another of our American cousins. Traffic was moving slowly on southbound I-95. Shawn M. had recently left a Pompano Beach bar, and now he was stuck in traffic. As the saying goes, you don't buy beer--you just rent it, and Shawn couldn't wait another moment to relieve himself. "I need to take a leak," he told his friends.

Traffic was deadlocked, so the waterlogged man climbed out, put his hand on the divider, and jumped over the low concrete wall... only to fall 65 feet to his death. "He probably thought there was a road, but there wasn't," said a Fort Lauderdale police spokesman. The car was idling on an overpass above the railroad lines.

His mother shared her attempt thoughts. "Shawn didn't do a whole lot for a living. He got along on his charm, just like his father."

Though his death was tragic, Shawn's downfall proves the old adage: Look before you leak!

But the winners of the 2009 Darwin Awards are a pair of bank robbers from Belgium. The pair decided they wanted to help themselves to the contents of an ATM, without use of a debit card. Unfortunately for them they rather overestimated the amount of dynamite needed to blow up such a machine.

The resulting explosion destroyed the building which housed the ATM (pictured right). One robber was rushed to hospital suffering severe head trauma but died shortly after his arrival. Police assumed his accomplice has escaped but 12 hours into excavating the building's debris the second robber's body was discovered under the rubble.

Other contenders for the award this year were the following;

■ Jake reached the summit of Saddle Mountain in Oregon, and then and there he informed his friends that he had planned to make a controlled slide down the cliff face. He would meet up with them in the parking lot or on the trail below.

Most folks are satisfied with the risks and rewards of dune sliding, and the inevitable 150-foot tumble and a broken limb. Jake, 18, decided to 'git-r-dun' down a thousand-foot cliff. He slid pell-mell down the cliff--and what was intended to be a controlled rockslide ended abrubptly 1000 feet below the summit, when his body came to rest in a steep ravine.

Friends were shocked. "We are shocked," they said, "because he is always doing stuff like this and coming out smiling." Due to the hazardous terrain, recovery workers were not able to reach the body until 36 hours laterz when Clatsop County Rescue and Portland Mountain Rescue teams confirmed the death.

■ Two disguised men entered a Sprint store on Sparkleberry Lane, pulled out guns, and stole wallets, purses, and credit cards from employees before ordering them into a bathroom. Both men fled, but they could not flee from their own stupidity. 23-year-old James T. had disguised himself by painting his face gold.

Yes, in order to conceal his identity during the robbery, James had covered his skin with spray paint. If this isn't a Darwin Award, what is? Paints are clearly labelled, do not get on skin, do not get in eyes, do not inhale. Paint fumes are well-known to be toxic, and the metallic colors are particularly noxious. James began having trouble breathing (surprise!) and died wheezing shortly after the robbery took place.

To add insult to injury, the disguise was ineffective. Witnesses were certain as to the identity of their assailant. Had he lived, James, like his surviving accomplice, would have been charged with armed robbery.

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Pool Leagues

Hua Hin and Khao Takiap Ladies Pool League
A new pool league just for the ladies! Playing every Monday night we are sure this will get more spectators than the other leagues!

Next Week's Fixtures
Week 1 11/1/10
Bob and Nok's v Railway Tavern
Kum Koon v Garden Bar 2
Sports Bar v Cookies
Sunset Boulevard v Dara Bar

Hua Hin Pool Billiard League
A new season starts today, 8th January 2010. Please contact Andy at Lucky Shot for more information.

This Week's Fixtures
Matchday 1 8th Jan 2010
Lucky Shot Stud v Lucky Shot A
Braze Head Tattoo v Lucky Shot B
Dick's Office A v Dick's Office B
Oasis v Sugar Cane
Thaiwaii v Return Bar
Sunset B'vard v Eagle B
JW Red v JW Black
Eagle A v Queens Flower

Next Week's Fixtures
Matchday 2 15th Jan 2010
Lucky Shot A v Lucky Shot B
Lucky Shot Stud v Dick's Office A
Sugar Cane v Braze Head Tattoo
Dick's Office B v Thaiwaii
Eagle B v Oasis
Return Bar v JW Red
Queens Flower v Sunset B'vard
JW Black v Eagle A

Hua Hin Social Pool League Results
Week 4 results next week

Next Week's Fixtures
Week 5 13/1/10
Jungle Juice A v Ying Yang
King Bar Men v Billys
Sabai v JW Black
London Bar v Lazy Daze B
PP v Headrock
Red Bar v Limelight
Lazy Daze A v U Turn
Int/l Butterfly Bar v Lord Nelson
JW Red v King Bar Ladies
Billys Babes v Jungle Juice B

League Table

Team	P	W	L	+/-	Pts
PP	3	3	0	40-17	6
J Juice B	3	3	0	39-18	6
Limelight	3	2	1	32-25	4
King Men	3	2	1	30-27	4
JW Red	2	2	0	25-13	4
Billys	2	2	0	24-14	4
J Juice A	2	2	0	24-14	4
King Ldys	3	1	2	25-32	2
Billys Bbs	2	1	1	24-14	2
Sabai	2	1	1	19-19	2
Lazy Dz A	2	1	1	18-20	2
Lzy Dz Gls	2	1	1	17-21	2
London	2	1	1	17-21	2
JW Black	1	0	1	9-10	0
U Turn	3	0	3	20-37	0
Int/l B'fly	3	0	3	15-42	0
Headrock	2	0	2	15-23	0
Red Bar	2	0	2	14-24	0
Ld Nelson	2	0	2	12-26	0

New Tennis Tournament

The inaugural Hua Hin city wide tennis championships is taking place on January 22nd,23rd and 24th 2010 at Palm Hills sports centre with both men's and women's singles and doubles. 100 baht entry fee for each event and all players must bring a new can of balls. The winner gets the new can, the loser the old can. Players must reside in the Hua Hin area. All levels are welcome including instructors and hotel hitters. Sign up at Hua Hin Today newspaper or Palm Hills sports club.
Please call 080 244 6739 for any other information.

Cryptic Crossword Solution

Here is the solution to AWOL's cryptic crossword, which is on page 18 - we know how frustrating it is to have to wait a week for the answers to these brain teasers so please try not to cheat!

JUNGLE JUICE
DAILY SPECIALS
Mon Fish & chips 140 B
Tue Chicken/Chips 160 B
Thur Bangers & mash 140 B
Fri Pork chop, veg 180 B
Sat Hotpot w/ veg 160 B
Sun Roast Lamb (NZ) 220B
Pork & Chicken 180 B
19/1 Selekam Road, Hua Hin
Tel. 087 153 2259
Email mueansean@hotmail.com

Darts Leagues

Division 1
Final League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	PF-PA	Pts
Scan A	18	14	0	4	224-100	28
CAT A	18	13	2	3	220-104	28
Oasis	18	12	3	3	193-121	27
P'dise	18	13	0	5	189-129	26
JW Blk	18	11	1	6	187-144	23
Lazy Dz	18	8	2	8	158-153	18
ThaiWi	18	5	1	12	122-202	11
JW Red	18	4	0	14	108-216	8
Lucky S	18	3	1	14	106-218	7
Dicks B	18	1	2	14	98-226	4

Division 2
Final League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	PF-PA	Pts
Cat B	18	14	2	2	236-91	30
Jaew	17	13	2	2	190-116	28
Kom H	18	13	1	4	212-112	27
Scan B	18	13	0	5	227-98	26
J Juice	18	9	1	8	169-155	19
KH Ls	17	8	0	9	127-179	16
Scan C	18	4	1	13	115-199	9
R'way	18	4	1	13	111-213	9
Dick A	18	4	0	14	127-197	8
Pat Pt	18	3	0	15	91-233	6

Results - Week 23 and 24
Congratulations to all the Cup & divisional winners and individuals below.
Division 1 Winners & Cup Winners: Scandic Bar A

Division 1 Runners Up: Cat A
Cup Runners Up: Lazy Daze
Division 2 Winners: Cat B

Division 2 Runners Up: Jaew Bar

Top 16 Champion: Ball (CAT B)

Top 16 Runner Up: Mark (Oasis)

Special Award: Oil (Jungle Juice)

DARTS MEETING AT JW'S TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY 7.30PM

Pool Leagues brought to you by Lucky Shot Bar

Hua Hin & Khao Takiab League 2009
Results
Week 11 6th January 2010
Harley's 6 - 12 Garden Bar 2
Oasis 11 - 7 Free Time
Railway Tav 6 - 12 Dizzy Dolphin
Sports Bar 3 - 15 Dara
Sunset Boulevard 12 - 6 Bobby's
Thaiwaii 11 - 7 Bob and Noks

League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Thaiwaii	11	8	2	1	48	18
Oasis	11	9	0	2	44	18
Harley's	11	8	0	3	36	16
Garden 2	11	7	1	3	16	15
Dizzy Dolp	11	5	3	3	18	13
Sunset B'd	11	6	1	4	4	13
Bob / Noks	11	5	1	5	4	11
Dara	11	4	2	5	-6	10
Free Time	11	3	3	5	0	9
Sports Bar	11	2	0	9	-58	4
Bobby's	11	1	1	9	-52	3
Railway T	11	0	2	9	-54	2

Next Week's Fixtures
Week 12 13th January 2010
Bobby's v Bob and Noks
Oasis v Garden Bar 2
Railway Tavern v Free Time
Sports Bar v Dizzy Dolphin
Sunset Boulevard v Dara
Thaiwaii v Harley's

Hua Hin 8 Ball League
Results Week 17 30/12/2009
Curly's Bar A 9 - 3 DicksB
DicksA 5 - 7 Curly's Bar B
Komhom 5 - 7 LilleMan
MrDanA 4 - 8 Eagle Bar
Purple Pig 7 - 5 Pla's Place
Results Week 18 6/1/2010
Curly's Bar B 6 - 6 MrDanA
DicksB 8 - 4 W/O Komhom
Eagle Bar 7 - 5 Purple Pig
LilleMan 10 - 2 DicksA
Pla's Place 4 - 8 W/O Curly's Bar A
Next Week's Fixtures
The season is over!

Next Week's Fixtures
The season is over! Please contact Barry on 0817601075 if you want to join the league.

Coming soon!
All the local sports results as soon as available on our website, www.awolonline.net
Also check out the new online AWOL forum - join up and start a discussion about your league!

Final League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Eagle Bar	18	17	0	1	80	34
MrDanA	18	14	3	1	84	31
Curly's A	18	10	0	8	-2	20
Komhom	18	9	0	9	24	18
Pla's Place	18	7	2	9	-18	16
LilleMan	18	6	2	10	-20	14
Curly's B	18	5	4	9	-22	14
DicksA	18	6	0	12	-32	12
Purple Pig	18	4	3	11	-44	11
DicksB	18	4	2	12	-50	10

Balloon Chasers Guide

Parties, special offers, regular events, celebrations and more; if you want it in AWOL email info@awolonline.net or contact Noi at Sabai Bar (Tel: 086 174 6165) by Thursday noon every week.

Thursday 14th January - Kom Hom Charity Quiz and Bingo Night; great fun for everyone! (ad p 15)

Regular Events

Live music every night from midnight - at Heaven on Soi Binthabaht

Daily specials at Belga Cafe & Brasserie

Everyday Happy Hour at Headrock 10am - 8pm (until 2am Mon & Fri) - 55 baht all beers and selected spirits

Every Day - Harley's Bar all drinks only 50 baht 10am to 5pm. (ad p 3)

Every fortnight - Komhom Fun Charity Quiz and Bingo night (please check; see ad p 15)

Fridays - Dizzy Dolphin Karaoke/ Live music alternate Fridays (ad p 3)
Dick's Office open darts 7.30pm (ad p 24)

Saturdays - Beach Hut Bar (ad p 13) live band every week

Sundays - British style Sunday Roasts available at:
Lin's Cafe, Phetkasem Road between Soi s 80 &78 - Roast Beef Dinners Every Day (ad p 4)
Jungle Juice, Soi Selekam (ad p 20)
Dick's Office, Soi 80 (ad p 24)
Ye Olde Buffalo Tavern, Chomsin/Naresdamri (ad p 8)

Scandic Bar, Cha Am, open darts evening from 7.30pm . FREE return transport from Dick's Office departs 7pm - please call 089 745 3992 (Anne) or 089 894 4310 (Mack) 3 hrs before to book transport

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Hua Hin Golf Society

This week's results:

5th January 2010 - Royal Ratchaburi 48 Entrants

Group 'A' - 0-15 hcp 26 entrants Stableford

1st Trevor Firth 33 points 11 hcp. 2nd Laurence Garrett 32 points 4 hcp. 3rd Mike Staples 32 points 8 hcp. 4th Russell Beard 31 points 5 hcp. 5th Paul (g) 31 points 10 hcp. 6th Usko Riovas 30 points 9 hcp.

Group 'B' - 16-36 hcp 22 entrants Stableford

1st Paul Sandal 37 points 16 hcp. 2nd Rolf Reitz 34 points 21 hcp. 3rd Erkki 33 points 17 hcp. 4th Andy Bayes 33 points 22 hcp. 5th Rob Barnes 32 points 18 hcp. 6th Kurre 31 points 17 hcp.

Nearest the Pin No. 7 Erkki, No. 11 Russell Beard

29th December - Black Mountain 38 Entrants

Group 'A' - 0-15 hcp 18 entrants Stableford

1st Maryke van der Tuin 36 points 11 hcp. 2nd Michael Lausch 35 points 9 hcp. 3rd Hans Metzger 35 points 12 hcp. 4th Mike Staples 34 points 8 hcp. 5th Tim Dixon 34 points 7 hcp. 6th Usko Riovas 34 points 9 hcp.

Group 'B' - 16-36 hcp 20 entrants Stableford

1st Hans van der Voort 36 points 29 hcp. 2nd Paul Moran 35 points 16 hcp. 3rd Bjorn Byman 34 points 19 hcp. 4th Peter Wyler 33 points 19 hcp. 5th Paul Plasmans 32 points 18 hcp. 6th Klaus Fischer 30 points 33 hcp.

Next week's fixtures:

Sorry, Members only until further notice

Tuesday 12th Banyan - 1st Tee Time 10.00 - Stableford

Friday 15th Cancelled - Kaeng Krachan

Butterfly Rock Golf

This week's results:

4th Jan Lake View - Medal/Stableford 28 players

Medal 10 players: 1st - John Anstee (21) - nett 71, 2nd - Barbara Anstee (24) - nett 76, 3rd - Paul Williams (2) - nett 76. **Stableford 18 players:** 1st - Barry Fitzgerald (14) - 38pts, 2nd - Rolf Reitz (21) - 36pts, 3rd - Mike Lord (15) - 35pts

30th DecPalm Hills - stableford 14 players

Div. 1 - 1-15 hcp - 6 players: 1st - Barry Fitgerald (14) - 35pts, 2nd - Craig Miller (6) - 33pts, 3rd - Timo Ripatti (5) - 31pts. Div. 2 - 16 - 36 hcp - 8 players: 1st - Pak Soonmantornee (26) - 35pts, 2nd - Barbara Anstee (24) - 33pts, 3rd - Martin Lewis (20) - 31pts

28th Dec Lake View AB - stableford 27 players

Div. 1 - 1-15 hcp - 13 players: 1st - Mike Ford (15) - 41pts, 2nd - Bob Welsh (10) - 39pts, 3rd - Doug Miller (10) - 37pts. Div. 2 - 16 - 36 hcp - 14 players: 1st - Fred Kroll (21) - 32pts, 2nd - Barbara Anstee (24) - 31pts, 3rd - David Rawlings (17) - 31pts

24th Dec Palm Hills - stableford 18 Players

Front 9 22 pts - Barbara Anstee (24). Brian Humphries (20), Back 9 18 pts - Duang Bach (29). Brian Humphries, Overall - 40 pts - Brian Humphries

23rd Dec Lake View AB - strokeplay 27 players

Div. 1 - 1-14 hcp - 13 players: 1st - Julie Baker (14) (g) - 72nett, 2nd - Brent O'Bell (8) - 72nett, 3rd - Mike Lord (14) - 73nett. Div. 2 - 15 - 36 hcp - 14 players: 1st - Pak Soonmantornee (30) - 73nett, 2nd - Barbara Anstee (24) - 73nett, 3rd - David Leaver (16) - 74nett

Forthcoming Fixtures

Mon Jan 11th Stableford/Skins at Lake View

Wed Jan 13th Stableford at Black Mountain

Friday Jan 15th - Palm Hills

Football Preview

brought to you by

Premier League

(all times Thai)

Saturday, 9 January 2010

Hull v Chelsea, 19:45

Not the ideal game to start the new year with for the home side, but this will be closer than many would expect. Still an away win though.

Arsenal v Everton, 22:00

Arsenal have not been at their fluent best recently but are still picking up wins. Everton will be difficult to break down and this will be another tight game, and a narrow home win.

Burnley v Stoke, 22:00

Both managers will be after the win here, being a game against fellow potential relegation battlers. We think a draw is on the cards despite the potentially upsetting effect of Burnley manager Coyle's (below) desire to take the Bolton job.

Fulham v Portsmouth, 22:00

Portsmouth, despite playing some good football, don't seem to be getting the breaks, and are looking increasingly like dropping a division. Fulham are following up their good season last time, with another one, and we expect a home win here.

Sunderland v Bolton, 22:00

Bolton, as expected, dispensed with their manager, and at time of writing hadn't replaced him; this never augurs well for the morale of the team and we expect them to get a good thumping here.

Wigan v Aston Villa, 22:00

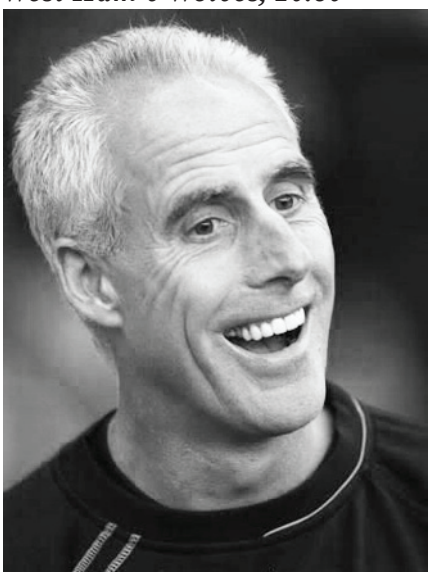
The home side are slowly and surely being dragged down into the relegation fight, and an increasingly resolute Villa side should take all the points here.

Sunday, 10 January 2010

Birmingham v Man Utd, 00:30

Tough one to call; United will have been stung by their deserved FA Cup exit and Ferguson will be looking for a positive response. Birmingham are in great form and this will be an interesting game which we think will end up as a draw.

West Ham v Wolves, 20:30



The injury plagued Hammers put on a good show in losing to Arsenal in the Cup, and we expect some of their regulars to return for this crucial fixture. Wolves and McCarthy (above) will think they can get something from this game but we don't - home win.

Liverpool v Tottenham, 23:00

Probably the game of the weekend, both in terms of entertainment and significance. A win for Spurs would signal a changing of the guard as far as the 'Big 4' tag goes, while the Reds will be desperate to reignite their season. Home win.

Tuesday, 12 January 2010

Man City v Blackburn, 03:00

Looking at the stats there can really only be one result here; Blackburn ship goals for fun away from home and have only scored seven, while City have kept three clean sheets in a row and are averaging more than two a game at home. Easy home win.

Sponsor this section!

Premier League Table

1	Chelsea	20	29	45
2	Man Utd	20	27	43
3	Arsenal	19	30	41
4	Tottenham	20	20	37
5	Man City	19	11	35
6	Aston Villa	20	11	35
7	Liverpool	20	12	33
8	Birmingham	20	2	32
9	Fulham	20	4	27
10	Stoke	20	-7	24
11	Sunderland	20	-3	23
12	Everton	19	-6	22
13	Blackburn	20	-15	21
14	Burnley	20	-18	20
15	Wolverhampton	20	-19	19
16	Wigan	19	-23	19
17	West Ham	20	-9	18
18	Bolton	18	-10	18
19	Hull	20	-22	18
20	Portsmouth	20	-14	14

AWOL Challenge Fantasy League Top 10

#	Team	GW	TOT
1	simply red	49	1092
2	Sassy Thai	53	1088
3	I am...Sasha Fierce	53	1068
4	Mr ChaAming	49	1057
5	Huahindick	60	1045
6	Gusto Creative	52	1029
7	Thailand Lover	70	1027
8	Wanderlust United	56	1021
9	Sorco United	72	999
10	Jobless Army	62	975

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Premier League predictions labelled 'absurd'

Observer pundit compiles 'damning' statistics

■ HUA HIN, THAILAND

A furore broke out this week as famed Observer columnist 'Cocky" produced reams of pages as an indictment of the AWOL Premier League predictions. 'Cocky's' claims were being investigated by the owners of the AWOL newspaper, and one insider commented that he thought 'heads will roll' over the allegations.

The reason for 'Cocky's' fury at the inaccuracy of the predictions is unknown but some are speculating that he had got himself involved in an Asian betting ring and was basing his bets on the AWOL predictions.

However, some are leaping to the defence of the anonymous predictor, saying that when you delve into the statistics a bit deeper, they are in fact remarkably accurate, and the only really glaring errors are where Chelsea, Manchester United, Tottenham and West Ham are concerned.

This probably is a better explanation for Cocky's rage - as a lifelong Chelsea fan, who is rumoured to have a full size poster of John 'Mr Chelsea' Terry on his bedroom wall as well as a Chelsea bedroom set including pyjamas, slippers, duvet, sheets, pillowcases and a little blue bear called Stamford, he is probably

Mr Predictor (above) retains his anonymity and celebrates predicting another Chelsea loss

incensed by each loss predicted for his beloved Blues.

We are reproducing some of the statistics here to let you be the judge; the league table with points accrued if AWOL's predictions to date were correct, and in brackets the real position and real points. The final column indicates the difference between the predicted and actual points.

In terms of the actual win, lose or draw predictions, the statistics tell us a little more. Of the 172 matches played up to 31st December, the AWOL prediction was correct for 66 of them; a 38% success rate. What is noticable though is that this success rate has been climbing as the season progresses with a hit rate of 50% and above in most weeks since the end of November. Can this trend continue? Will this analysis change how Mr Predictor makes his predictions? Or has it become personal now? Only time will tell...

Coming soon - Mr Predictor vs Cocky Grudge Match!

AWOL Predictions league table as of 31st December 2009

Position		Team	Points		
Pr	Act		Pr	Act	Dif
1	(3)	Arsenal	36	(41)	-5
2	(17)	West Ham	34	(18)	+16
3	(5)	Aston Villa	30	(35)	-5
4	(8)	Birmingham	29	(32)	-3
5	(6)	Man City	29	(35)	-6
6	(7)	Liverpool	28	(33)	-5
7	(2)	Man Utd	28	(43)	-15
8	(12)	Stoke City	28	(21)	+7
9	(9)	Fulham	27	(27)	0
10	(4)	Spurs	27	(37)	-10
11	(1)	Chelsea	25	(45)	-20
12	(10)	Sunderland	25	(23)	+2
13	(11)	Everton	21	(22)	-1
14	(13)	Blackburn	20	(21)	-1
15	(14)	Burnley	20	(20)	0
16	(15)	Wigan	19	(19)	0
17	(16)	Wolves	19	(19)	0
18	(18)	Bolton	18	(18)	0
19	(19)	Hull	18	(18)	0
20	(20)	Portsmouth	17	(14)	+3

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